

RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

Forum Name: Ophthalmic Nursing Forum (ONF)

Introduction:

The ophthalmic nursing forum consists of ophthalmic nurses who share a commitment to the care of people with ophthalmic conditions and visual impairment. We are dedicated to promoting an ophthalmic nursing workforce who have the appropriate education, skills and expertise to provide safe and effective patient care.

Membership of the forum:

- Total number - all 1592 first choice 1160
- Our membership numbers have increased from last year.
- From December 2023, there will be 4 vacant positions on committee
- Two new members appointed to the committee this year.
- The committee will not be quorate and applications to the forum will open again in January, date to be confirmed.
- The steering group meet via teleconference every two months; attendance variable. Mostly, our strategy goals have been met. We continue to be invited to inform national developments in ophthalmic care.

Reflections - 2023: (Outputs and outcomes):

Social media: we are active on Twitter and Facebook the ONF have recently relaunched communications via Twitter, which is reflected in the low numbers as indicated below.

Social Media membership:

TWITTER* November 2023	FACEBOOK November 2023
93	701

Representation:

The ONF has been actively involved in a range of events and contributions to ophthalmic workforce strategy. The level of activity and influence on the ophthalmic nursing workforce developments is a particular highlight.

- **RCOph National Ophthalmology Database Audit (Age-related macular degeneration (AMD))** Disseminate of audit data. Engagement across all ophthalmic units. Software issues issued. Providing input into audit process from RCN/Nursing perspective.
- **National Falls Prevention Coordination Group (NFPCG); National Healthcare Public Health team** - ongoing collaboration following task and finish group; to share knowledge and expertise about vision and falls. To continue providing advice and participating in actions as part of strategic updates, discussions strategic updates, falls research updates.
- **UK Ophthalmic Alliance (UKOA)** <https://uk-oa.co.uk/> -an MDT group of ophthalmic care providers and stakeholders Chair of ONF is a Board Member of the UKOA. National Meeting: Focus on patients. Eye care workforce transformation and the role of the ophthalmic nurse.
- **United Kingdom Ophthalmic Alliance (UKOA) Board meeting** Discussion of finances – i.e. membership fees for NHS Trusts. The UKOA provides free study days which contribute to CPD.
- **United Kingdom Ophthalmic Alliance (UKOA) April 2023. Online national presentation An Ophthalmic Nurse Education**

- **APPG on Eye Health and Visual Impairment: The Emotional Impact of Sight Loss** - member represents the Ophthalmic Nursing Forum (ONF) on the APPG. A number of presentations about mental health and sight loss ; noted the of specialist support for people with mental health problems; more needed to support people (including children) July 2023
- **APPG on the Eye Care Support Pathway 15th Nov 2023**
- **College of Optometrist Workforce Advisory Group: ONF represented** to ensure the role of the ophthalmic nurse is recognised in this workforce development project.
- **Eye Health Forum/ Eye Care Services, Dept. Health and Social Care Rationale for attending** - to have the role of the ophthalmic nurse as part of the eye care workforce recognised. Ministerial update-support for increasing the eye care workforce and discussed need to increase number of healthcare professionals; apprenticeships, digital and technical learning; eye care as a pillar of primary care.
- **National Falls Prevention Coordination Group (NFPCG) - NHS Public Health team** Updates from researchers e.g. action for falls- falls in care homes and Group discussions about falls.
- **Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOph) Training the Trainers Course** Invited presentation and panel discussion. This is linked to the Ophthalmic Practitioner Training (OPT) which is endorsed by the RCN. The course is a requirement for the OPT assessors and supervisors in clinical practice to support supervisees. The course also offers an introduction to the OPT for NHS service leads.
- **Ophthalmic Practitioner Training ((RCOph OPT)** ongoing contribution to discussions regarding curriculum development.
- **RCOph Mapping of QN learning outcomes** to a level 0 OPT
- **RCN annual review of endorsement of the OPT course from Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOph)**
- **Royal National Society of Blind People**-Eye Care Support Pathway. Task and finish group. To be published 16/11/23. Endorsed by the RCN
- **Royal National Society of Blind People**-Eye Care Support Pathway. Launch event 16th Nov 2023

Consultations:

Many requests for advice sought to gain an understanding of the role of the ophthalmic nurse for education and workforce planning from HEIs and Trusts

ONF Representation at the RCN

- Forum Chair's Group. PS attended bimonthly online meetings
- RCN Professional Frameworks: Defining nursing work stream (published October 2023)
- Strategic group for clinical supervision project

RCN Congress 2023

- Voting members PS (unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances), Nicola Dunlop represented RCN Learning
- World Café event: planned, submitted and implemented led by PS (supported by Forum Chairs). Well attended and well received event. It continues as regular part of the Congress programme.

ONF Conference 2023 November 11th

Key Outcomes:

- Final delegate Numbers – 119
- Approximately 23 Non members

- 4 x Committee members
- 7 x Speakers

Learning outcomes:

1. Enhance knowledge about ophthalmic nursing and ophthalmic care via a range of perspectives.
2. Think critically about individual ophthalmic nursing practice in the context of eye care restoration in question and answer sessions following each presentation.
3. Critically appraise ophthalmic nursing practice by participating in a panel discussion.
4. Make the links to NMC revalidation.

Delegate feedback (30 respondents):

- Topic (77%), networking opportunities (53%) and speakers (47%) attracted delegates to the conference.
- 80% of delegates rated the content and speakers 8/9/10 out of 10.
- 90% of delegates said the event satisfactorily met or exceeded expectations in terms of meeting the learning objectives.
- Preferred delegate format: Virtual 10% v In-person 90%.

Forum Webpages

- Refreshed and updated by the RCN digital team supported by our professional lead CB.

FGG Projects

- Nature, Scope and Value of Ophthalmic Nursing review completed and published on ONF clinical pages.
- Awaiting feedback from Corporate Relations regarding sponsorship for digital publication.
- Vine Simulation Workshop for NI-FGG awarded to complete a face to face workshop, originally on hold due to the pandemic (Workshops completed in England, Scotland and Wales pre pandemic)
- Talking Heads project: A selection of ophthalmic nursing specific videos now available on the OF clinical pages

Plans for 2023: Aspirations for future work:

- To develop interest and applications to the ONF forum steering committee
- To continue to influence the NHS agendas on ophthalmic patient care, ophthalmic nursing and ophthalmic nurse education.
- To strengthen the profile of ophthalmic nursing

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